

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: HAYASHI, et al.

Serial No.: UNKNOWN

Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN

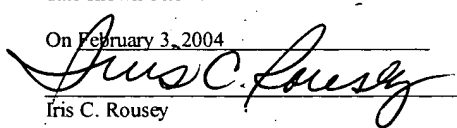
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I hereby certify that this paper is being sent via Express Mail to the Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

On February 3, 2004

  
Iris C. RouseyCommissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Preliminary to examination of the above-identified Continuation-in-part application, please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks/Conclusion** begins on page 11 of this paper.